



The Bessie Coleman Foundation, Inc.

- Queen Bess - An American Legacy -



Doreen Branch – BCF Board Member

“I see BCF as an organization that will assist all minorities (not just African-Americans) in their pursuit of a career in aviation”.

Doreen Branch comes from an aviation oriented family. Her mother and father would take her and her sisters to airports to watch planes take off and land. This began in the 60's when they would go watch the planes at Newark, N.J. and then continued when the family moved to Maryland and their mother would take them to watch the planes at National Airport in Washington, D. C. Her older sister took a few flying lessons and worked as a customer service rep for a major airline. Her mother volunteered at Tampa International Airport, and her younger sister began taking flying lessons shortly after Doreen obtained her license.

Doreen joined a flying club at Howard University and began taking flying lessons in 1983 at Washington Executive Airport in Clinton, Maryland. She obtained her private pilots certificate in 1986. Her family was very supportive. Doreen flies strictly for pleasure. Doreen is a member of the International Organization of Women Pilots also known as the 99's. She was chair of a local chapter in Maryland for 2 years.

Doreen joined the Bessie Coleman Foundation serving as secretary for more than 10 years and now as a board member. Doreen along with several members of the BCF participated in aviation career days, speaking engagements and space camps. **Most recently Doreen bought a Grumman Cheetah airplane - a four seat low wing airplane.** She is now a member of the American Yankee Association which is an association of Grumman owners. Finally she is a member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association - AOPA.

